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1978

NFAC CONTRIBUTION TO DCI ANNUAL REPORT

I. 1978 in Intelligence

B. New or Altered Emphases in Analysis

Significant new demands on and problems for intelligence analysis required a shift in the emphasis of analysis in several substantive areas. These areas ranged from traditional intelligence concerns, such as the strategic balance and China, to newer global preoccupations, such as the changing oil picture and the state of the world economy. In 1978 changes in the African and Middle Eastern situations also led to shifts in analytic emphasis, while recently quiet areas such as Indochina, Afghanistan, and Iran became subjects of renewed attention.

The Strategic Balance and Perceptions About It

Increased attention, as well as some alteration in analytical and presentational methods, has been prompted in part by developments in the USSR and in part by US policymakers' needs. Rough strategic equality and continued Soviet force modernization have confronted intelligence with more sophisticated and more complex issues revolving around the relationship between Soviet and US/NATO strategic capabilities. Ongoing Soviet R&D programs in both strategic offensive and defensive systems have focused additional attention on the breadth and continuity of these Soviet efforts and on the uncertainties attached to our projections.

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